

with them until they took to grain. In the crops of one or two I found insects, but during the winter months all insect life was very scarce indeed. A food they must find plentiful at certain seasons is the wild strawberry, which during my stay was mostly in bloom. In the suares set for pheasants were caught Tree-Partridges (*Arboricola crudigularis*), *Columba pulericollis*, *Trochalopteron morrisonianum*, two Woodcocks, and a monkey.

“The Marten is no doubt the great enemy of the Mikado Pheasant, and probably that is why they are so scarce. These animals were a constant source of trouble to me and frightened my live birds considerably. Night after night they came into the camp in the boldest manner and made sleep impossible. Traps were of no avail, and to shoot them under the circumstances was out of the question, even if one had had the opportunity.

“Both sexes of the Mikado make a loud cheeping noise like young turkeys, especially in the early morning, and when frightened or disturbed the male hisses like a snake. Undoubtedly the skins fade quickly, for already those procured are less bright than they were and not nearly so brilliant as the living birds, which are resplendent. They appear to nest about the end of April, for those I skinned at the beginning of that month were just coming into breeding condition, and one of the hens commenced to lay early in May; the other two being younger birds have not laid this year.”

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XXXIII.—*On the Immature Dress of Anser indicus and Dendrocyena arborea.* By F. E. BLAAUW, C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Text-figure 13.)

THE Barheaded Goose (*Anser indicus*) is not a free breeder in captivity, and I am glad to be able to describe the chick in down and the first feather-dress of this species, from specimens bred in my own Park.

The chick in down is coloured as follows:—Greenish yellow, a dark olive-green transverse spot, shaped like a half moon, on the occiput, where the black bars would be in the adult bird. A dark olive-green longitudinal band with transverse widenings over the back, makes almost the whole of the back dark.

The first plumage is similar to that of the adults, but is duller in colour and differs in the following points:—There are no white edgings to the small wing-coverts nor to the feathers of the sides. The blackish band on the hind-neck runs on nearly, but not quite, to the base of the bill, being separated from it by a whitish front. The blackish band includes the whole of the white zone, which in the adult is marked by the black cross-bars—it is darkest on the occiput. The dark colour includes the eyes, and runs on in front of them slightly lighter, to the base of the bill. The white band, which in the adult descends on each side of the neck into the grey, is wanting and becomes grey, like the rest of the breast. The white of the throat passes gradually into the grey of the breast, and does not end abruptly as in the adults. The legs and bill are yellow, but lighter in the adults, where the colour is more of an orange-yellow.

I had a brood of Tree-Ducks (*Dendrocyena arborea*) in my park, but, owing to the cold weather, they did not survive long. The nest was constructed under a bush at some distance from the water. Five eggs were laid. The chicks were hatched after an incubation of thirty days. The chicks are coloured as follows:—Silvery white on the under side, and black with white spots on the upper side. A darkish grey spot on the fore-neck. The black of the back continues over the hind-neck to almost the base of the bill, being separated from it by a white line, which widens on each side and runs over the eyes. The black zone on the occiput and hind-neck is interrupted by a white band which begins at the base of the bill on each side, and runs under the eyes right round the head. (See text-fig. 13, p. 659.)

This circular marking seems to be characteristic of the young in down of the genus *Dendrocyena*, and has been found by me in all the chicks of the different species of the

Text-fig. 13.



Chick of *Dendrocyena arborea*.

genus that I have seen. Under this white circular line the black of the hind-neck sends a black line forward on each side of the head. Legs and bill dark olive-green.